

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. A method for laser drilling and laser erosion, the method comprising:
  - using a laser, generating a laser beam acting upon a point of action on a workpiece; and
  - exposing the point of action to an electric field.
2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising generating the electric field by applying a voltage to an electrically conductive workpiece and an electrode which is situated at a distance from the point of action.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the electric field has a polarity such that positively charged ions are accelerated away from the workpiece by the electric field.
4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising exposing the point of action to a magnetic field.
5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising measuring a current generated by the electric field applied.
6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising, one of (a) in an area of the point of action and (b) between the workpiece and an electrode, generating an alternating electric field and measuring its capacitive resistance.
7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising eliminating at least one of material vapor and plasma which are formed during laser drilling/laser erosion.
8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is used for process safety.
9. A device for laser drilling and laser erosion comprising:
  - a laser for generating a laser beam acting upon a point of action on a

workpiece; and

a device for generating an electric field in an area of the point of action.

10. The device according to claim 9, wherein the device for generating an electric field includes an electrode and a current-voltage source, the electrode being situated at a distance from the point of action, the current-voltage source being interconnected between an electrically conductive workpiece and the electrode in such a way that the electric field is applied between the workpiece and the electrode.

11. The device according to claim 10, wherein the current-voltage source is a direct current-voltage source.

12. The device according to claim 10, wherein the workpiece and the electrode are interconnected in such a way that the workpiece is positively charged and the electrode is negatively charged.

13. The device according to claim 9, wherein a magnetic field is applied in an area of the point of action on the workpiece.

14. The device according to claim 10, further comprising an electric measuring device for measuring a current flowing between the workpiece and the electrode.

15. The device according to claim 10, wherein the current-voltage source generates a high-frequency alternating voltage, and further comprising a measuring device for measuring a capacitive resistance between the workpiece and the electrode.

16. The device according to claim 10, wherein the electrode has a one-piece design and has at least one opening through which the laser beam passes without obstruction.